



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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September 7, 2005

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Instruction Memorandum No. **CA-2005-051**

Expires: 09/30/06

To: CDD District Manager, and all Field Office Managers  
(*Attention – District/Regional and Field Office FMO's*)

From: DSD, Support Services

Subject: 2006 Rural Fire Assistance Program Guidance

Program Area: Fire Management

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum is being provided to announce the grant application period and guidance for California's 2006 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) Program. Grant applications will be accepted between 2 September and 7 October, 2005. The 2006 RFA grant program is being announced cooperatively for the BLM, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service in California to better serve our constituents and improve program compliance.

The primary objectives of the RFA program are to enhance firefighter safety and wildland fire protection capabilities of the rural fire departments that protect DOI administered lands. These objectives will be accomplished through RFA grant funding, local field office initiatives and the California Fire Chiefs training initiative. RFA grant funding may be applied to: wildland fire personal protective equipment; basic wildland fire training; basic safety and communications equipment, and; fire prevention activities within the local community.

We are expecting somewhere between \$400,000 and \$600,000 for BLM California's RFA program in 2006. A portion of this funding will be allocated to the California Fire Chiefs training initiative. Each BLM California Region should review closely their rural fire department needs and local assistance initiatives to best meet program goals and objectives for 2006. Grant selection priorities include rural departments, within BLM Direct Protection Areas, which have not previously been funded and those previously funded with continuing needs. A secondary priority is to assist rural departments adjacent to other DOI lands and protecting an "at-risk" community.

A new requirement for grant funding is compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has developed a phased NIMS compliance process for California. Local and rural fire departments are not required to meet any compliance until September 30, 2006. During this grant cycle we would like to acquire information from applicants about their current NIMS status and provide them direction on how to become NIMS compliant. The following checklist outlines the applicable components of NIMS compliance for rural departments. More information about NIMS compliance can be found in the OES SEMS/NIMS Integration Update letter dated August 3, 2005 for more direction ([www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov)).

1. Formally recognize the NIMS and adopting the NIMS principles and policies (this may be addressed within your cooperative fire agreement);
2. Establish a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements you already meet (this may be established by utilizing the NIMCAST web-based self-assessment system ([www.fema.gov/nimcast](http://www.fema.gov/nimcast));
3. Establish a timeframe and develop a strategy for full NIMS implementation (this may be established within your cooperative agreement and or through the NIMCAST system);
4. Completing the NIMS Awareness Course “National Incident Management System an Introduction” (IS 700) or federal equivalent “Incident Command Systems (ICS 100). (The IS 700 training available is on-line at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>

Fire Management Officers (FMO) and their designated RFA coordinators need to be familiar with the RFA grant requirements in order to work effectively with their local partners and are encouraged to review the following documents:

1. August 2004. BLM California- RFA Staff Responsibilities and Schedule (Attachment 1)
2. September 2005. Cooperative California BLM, NPS and FWS 2006 RFA Application Packet
3. June 2004. Draft Departmental Manual-RFA Program (Attachment 3)
4. July 2003. Draft Rural Fire Assistance Handbook
5. August 2005. Governor’s Office of Emergency Services SEMS/NIMS Integration Update

The aforementioned documents, applicable RFA memos, grant application packets, and all related information should be kept in detailed files at each field office. Regional FMOs are responsible for designating field office RFA leads to assist in the grant selection process occurring on a date to be determined in October - November, 2005. The 2006 BLM California RFA application will be posted electronically on the California Fire Alliance website and available to field offices for posting or providing to partners. Paul Bannister will be taking over the lead for the RFA program, with a transition occurring after the grant application period.

Please send completed grant application packages to:

BLM-California State Office  
Attn: Miriam Morrill, RFA Program Manager  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825

The grant announcement can be found at the following websites: <http://www.cafirealliance.org/>, and <http://www.firesafecouncil.org/>. Please reference the National RFA website for steps in completing an application: <http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/steps.html>.

If you have questions during the application process, please contact Miriam Morrill at (916) 978-4436. If you have question throughout the year please contact Paul Bannister at the California State Office, Branch of Fire and Aviation at 916-978-4437.

Signed by:  
Karen Barnette  
DSD, Support Services

Authenticated by:  
Richard A. Erickson  
Records Management

Attachments:

- 1 - BLM California- RFA Staff Responsibilities and Schedule (3 pp)
- 2 - BLM California- 2006 RFA Grant Application Packet (10 pp)
- 3 - Draft Departmental Manual-RFA Program (8 pp)
- 4- August 2005. Governor’s Office of Emergency Services SEMS/NIMS Integration Update (12 pgs)
- 5 – Rural Fire Department P25-Narrow Band Requirement (2 pgs)